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Police sergeant, one other killed in bank robbery

LUKKEY ABAWURU (Lagos) and ABIODUN FELIX (Osogbo)

TWO persons including a police sergeant were yesterday killed by suspected armed robbers who invaded a commercial bank in Ikire, Osun State. Another two people sustained injuries.

The incident which caused a panic around the bank premises came even as commissioner of Police in Lagos State, Mohammed Abubakar, yesterday paraded 15 armed robbery suspects who were alleged to have masterminded and executed serial robbery operations in the state in the last one week.

The victims at Osun robbery were identified as Seargeant Oyewole Lateef and the driver of the bullion van used in conveying the money to the bank, identified as Tunji. The wounded ones are receiving medication at a hospital in the state.

Daily Champion gathered that the robbers, numbering five, aged between 15 and 20 stormed the Ikire branch of the commercial bank in a Mercedes Benz - V-boot car.

An eye witness said the suspects trailed the bullion van conveying cash to the bank from Ibadan. He added that the robbers attached the van on arrival at the bank and engaged the policemen in a gun duel.

According to him, armed policemen on guard at the bank foiled the attempt to cart away the money resulting to sporadic shootings in the area.

The Police Public Relation Officer of the command, Mr. Joshua Olayemi confirmed the story saying that the robbers did not succeed in their bid to cart away money.

He added that some officials of the bank have been invited to assist the police in their investigation.

In Lagos, Abubakar said the paraded robbery suspects were arrested at various times in the week by policemen in the state.

Briefing journalists at his weekly parade of armed robbery suspects Abubakar said, some of the suspects were caught in the act while others were nabbed based on information.

The police boss said the suspects had terrorised several areas in the state carting away monies and inflicting diverse injuries on several homes.

According to Abubakar, the suspects were rounded up at Isolo, Lagos Island, Oshodi and Ikeja respectively.

The commissioner who reiterated his resolve to fight crime in the state, enjoined the public to furnish the command with information that could lead to the arrest of robbers in the city.

Vowing that he would leave no stones unturned in the fight against crime, Abubakar noted that his tenure would witness a reduction in crime and criminal activities in the state.

However, some of the suspects confessed their involvements in crime while several others claimed they were deceived and lured by their friends.

According to 17 year old Okei Etima, who was arrested with sure members of his gang, "I went into robbery because there was nobody to help me, I was rejected and my friend lured me into robbery."

Etuma, a from Bayelsa State affirmed that his gang has been robbing passersby of their handsets and valuables along Ketu and Ojota axis.



Countryman

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Similarly, a 52 year old man Ramadan Ismaila confessed that his friend lured him into sterling.